

6. (New) A method of producing an SKG BALB/c mouse that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis comprising:

- (a) breeding an SKG BALB/c mouse with a second BALB/c mouse to produce offspring;
- (b) screening the offspring for natural onset of autoimmune arthritis; and
- (c) identifying an offspring that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis thereby producing an SKG BALB/c mouse that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis.

7. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the second BALB/c mouse is an SKG BALB/c mouse.

8. (New) A method of producing a mouse that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis comprising:

- (a) breeding an SKG BALB/c mouse with a second mouse to produce offspring;
- (b) screening the offspring for natural onset of autoimmune arthritis; and
- (c) identifying an offspring that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis, thereby producing a mouse that develops natural onset of autoimmune arthritis.

9. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein the second mouse is not a BALB/c mouse strain.

10. (New) A method of identifying a therapy that decreases a symptom of rheumatoid arthritis comprising:

- (a) treating a mouse of claim 1 with a potential therapy; and
- (b) determining whether the potential therapy decreases a symptom of autoimmune arthritis in the mouse,

wherein identification of a potential therapy that decreases a symptom of autoimmune arthritis in the mouse identifies a therapy that decreases a symptom of rheumatoid arthritis.